

10. (Amended) Method for inhibition of Staphylococci binding to fibrinogen in mammals including humans, by administering a therapeutically and/or prophylactically effective amount of a fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12 to a mammal in need of such treatment.

11. (Amended) Method for passive immunization against Staphylococcal infection, comprising administering to a mammal antibodies against a fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12 in an amount sufficient to provide passive immunization.

Please add new Claims 12-13 as follows:

12. A fibrinogen binding protein derived from *S. aureus* having an apparent molecular weight of 60 kDa and that produces fragments having apparent molecular weights of approximately 50, 45, 40 and 30 kDa when digested with V8 protease (40  $\mu$ g/ml) for one hour on ice.

13. The fibrinogen binding protein of claim 12 wherein the protein further binds prothrombin.